

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 22-34 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 35-41 are added. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-34 (Canceled).

Claim 35 (New). A subtilisin 309 variant having reduced immunogenicity as compared with its wild-type protein, wherein the amino acid sequence of the subtilisin 309 variant differs from the amino acid sequence of subtilisin 309 with respect to at least one epitope area of subtilisin 309, such that the immunogenicity of the subtilisin 309 variant is below 75% of the immunogenicity of subtilisin 309.

Claim 36 (New). The subtilisin 309 variant of claim 35, wherein epitope areas correspond to epitope patterns that correspond to reactive peptide sequences reactive to antibodies raised against subtilisin 309.

Claim 37 (New). The subtilisin 309 variant of claim 36, wherein an epitope pattern is an IgE epitope pattern.

Claim 38 (New). The subtilisin 309 variant of claim 35, wherein an anchor amino acid of an epitope is substituted or deleted.

Claim 39 (New). The subtilisin 309 variant of claim 35, wherein the immunogenicity is below 50% of the immunogenicity of subtilisin 309.

Claim 40 (New). The subtilisin 309 variant of claim 35, wherein epitope areas are defined on the subtilisin 309 structure by being localized less than 5 Angstroms from any of the following epitope patterns: R Y P R (SEQ ID NO: 88), S G P R A G (SEQ ID NO: 89), P R/K S D P G (SEQ ID NO: 90), D P > R D T G (SEQ ID NO: 91), A R > R > A > N (SEQ ID NO: 92), N N > E L (SEQ ID NO: 93), R/K R F A/S N > E/D (SEQ ID NO: 94), E Y > M, P > P A P > S (SEQ ID NO: 95), A K I D P R/K (SEQ ID NO: 96), A D S > G Y P (SEQ ID NO: 97), S R S A (SEQ ID NO: 98), L > G R S S (SEQ ID NO: 99).

Claim 41 (New). A detergent composition comprising a subtilisin 309 variant of claim 35 and a surfactant.